

Tracking plumber trainees' hours



Effective date: July 1, 2004

Who does this affect? Plumber trainees, employers

- ✓ Plumber trainees: You will be required to submit annual affidavits of experience, completed by your employer, for the previous certification year at the time you renew your plumber trainee certificate. **IMPORTANT: Please submit your affidavit within 30 days of your certification renewal or we may not give you credit for those hours!**
- ✓ Certification cards issued after July 1, 2004, will show the level of supervision a plumber trainee requires rather than the number of certification years.



New testing requirements for certification or renewal



Effective date: January 1, 2005

Who does this affect? Journeyman and residential specialty plumbers, plumber trainees

- ✓ All plumber examinations will be based on the 2003 Uniform Plumbing Code with the Washington State Amendments.
- ✓ All plumber trainees will be required to meet the current hour requirements for journeyman or residential specialty certificate testing. As of January 1, 2005, we will no longer honor hours earned under trainee cards issued prior to July 1, 1997.

The minimum requirements for testing remain the same:

- ▶ Journeyman exam – 8,000 hours, of which 4,000 must be commercial work
- ▶ Residential Specialty Exam – 6,000 hours



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IMPORTANT!
Changes in certification requirements

Plumbers and Plumber Trainees

Changes in Certification Requirements



New requirements on the way:
Changes are coming for state laws and Department of Labor and Industries rules for plumber certification. The first change takes effect **July 1, 2004**, but most will be phased in over the next two years to give you time to adjust.



Continuing education requirements for certificate renewals

For certificates renewed on or after July 1, 2005

- ✓ Eight (8) hours of approved Plumber Certification continuing education credits will be required in order to renew journeyman, residential specialty and plumber trainee certificates.

Qualifications for taking the plumber certification exam: These eight (8) hours of continuing education credits are required prior to taking the plumber certification exam on or after July 1, 2005.

For certificates renewed on or after July 1, 2006

- ✓ **Journeyman and residential specialty plumbers,** within a two-year certificate renewal cycle, are required to submit a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education credits in the following categories in order to renew their certificates:
 - ▶ 8 hours of currently adopted plumbing code
 - ▶ 4 hours of basic electrical education
 - ▶ 4 hours of industry-specific education
- ✓ **Plumber trainees** will be required to submit 8 hours of approved continuing education credits for their annual certificate renewal. Continued education credits may be selected from the following categories. All of these required courses must be taken within two years.
 - ▶ 8 hours of currently adopted plumbing code
 - ▶ 4 hours of basic electrical education
 - ▶ 4 hours of industry-specific education

Qualifications for taking the plumber certification exam: Sixteen (16) hours of continuing education credits are required before taking the plumber certification exam on or after July 1, 2006.



Why continuing education?

Continuing education helps you:

- ✓ Develop new skills to meet modern demands
- ✓ Increase your marketable skills
- ✓ Develop increased pride in your trade
- ✓ Improve relationships between employers and employees

Continuing education helps your industry:

- ✓ Promote a highly skilled and diverse workforce
- ✓ Increase productivity
- ✓ Ensure public safety
- ✓ Enhance worker and consumer confidence

Fees will increase by 3.2%

Effective date: July 1, 2004

This increase, which applies to all plumbers' fees, helps to cover increased administrative costs. This increase will add to the cost of the following certification renewals:

- ▶ \$2.80 to journeyman
- ▶ \$2.80 to residential specialty
- ▶ \$1.00 to plumber trainee
- ▶ \$1.90 to backflow specialty
- ▶ \$0.90 to medical gas endorsement

Where can I get continuing education?

Development of state-approved continuing education courses under way

The Department of Labor and Industries' Plumber Certification program later this year will announce a set of approved courses that will allow you to meet the new requirements for continuing education. Only courses approved by the Plumber Certification program will be accepted for credit.

For a full explanation of current plumber certification requirements and fees, please see the L&I web site: www.LNI.wa.gov/tradeslicensing, or call us at 360-902-5207.



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